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Ralph E. Locher

April 14, 2006
Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : 09/481,640 Confirmation No.: 5923
Applicants : David Elliott Whitten, et al.
Filed : January 12, 2000
Title : Variable Length Cutting Device
Art Unit : 3724
Examiner : Clark F. Dexter
Customer No.: 24131

P R E L I M I N A R Y A M E N D M E N T

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S i r :

Preliminary to examination, kindly amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.